

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 05640 111718Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5590
INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 5640

E. O.11652: N/A
TAGS: MPOL, EC, CI
SUBJECT: HIGH-LEVEL ECUADOREAN MILITARY MISSION VISITS CHILE

REF: QUITO 4440

1. ECUADOREAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE, RETIRED GENERAL ANDRES ARATA ARRIVED SANTIAGO JULY 7 AND BEGAN AN EXTENSIVE PROGRAM OF HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIONS WITH CHILEAN OFFICIALS. HE WAS RECEIVED SEPARATELY BY PRESIDENT PINOCHET AND EACH MEMBER OF THE CHILEAN JUNTA, INCLUDING NATIONAL POLICE GENERAL CESAR MENDOZA WHO RETURNED LAST WEEK FROM A SIMILAR GOOD WILL TRIP TO PERU.

2. VISIT IS FOLLOWING ESTABLISHED SOUTHERN CONE PATTERN OF PUBLIC DECLARATIONS OF MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP AND SOLIDARITY BETWEEN ARMED FORCES OF BOTH COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, ARATA BROKE WITH TRADITION BY VOLUNTEERING THAT THE ARMED FORCES OF ECUADOR WILL SOON COMPLETE THEIR MISSION AND TURN POWER OVER TO CIVILIANS THROUGH A NATIONAL ELECTION IN 1978. ALL MEDIA REPORTED THIS STATEMENT. ARATA ADMITTED THE POSSIBILITY OF A MEETING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES BUT REFUSED TO COMMENT
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FURTHER.

3. ARATA VOLUNTEERED THAT HE HELD IN HIGH REGARD THE WORK OF THE CHILEAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE MISSION IN ECUADOR AND THE PERMANENT PRESENCE OF ITS ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE PERSONNEL. IN PASSING, HE NOTED THAT MILITARY "COLLABORATION" BETWEEN CHILE AND ECUADOR HAS BEEN OPEN AND FAR REACHING.

4. COMMENT: THERE APPEAR TO BE LITTLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ARATA'S VISIT AND THE APRIL VISIT OF ECUADOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER SALVADOR. ARATA'S TREATMENT, HOWEVER, WAS WARMER; HE WAS QUICKLY RECEIVED BY EACH OF THE MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING JUNTA. AS EXPECTED, SOCIAL ACTIVITIES HAVE HAD A STRICTLY MILITARY CHARACTER. THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS OF A MUTUAL DEFENSE PACT, BUT WE WILL PURSUE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE BILATERAL UNDERTAKINGS.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 11-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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